

50c



SPHINX

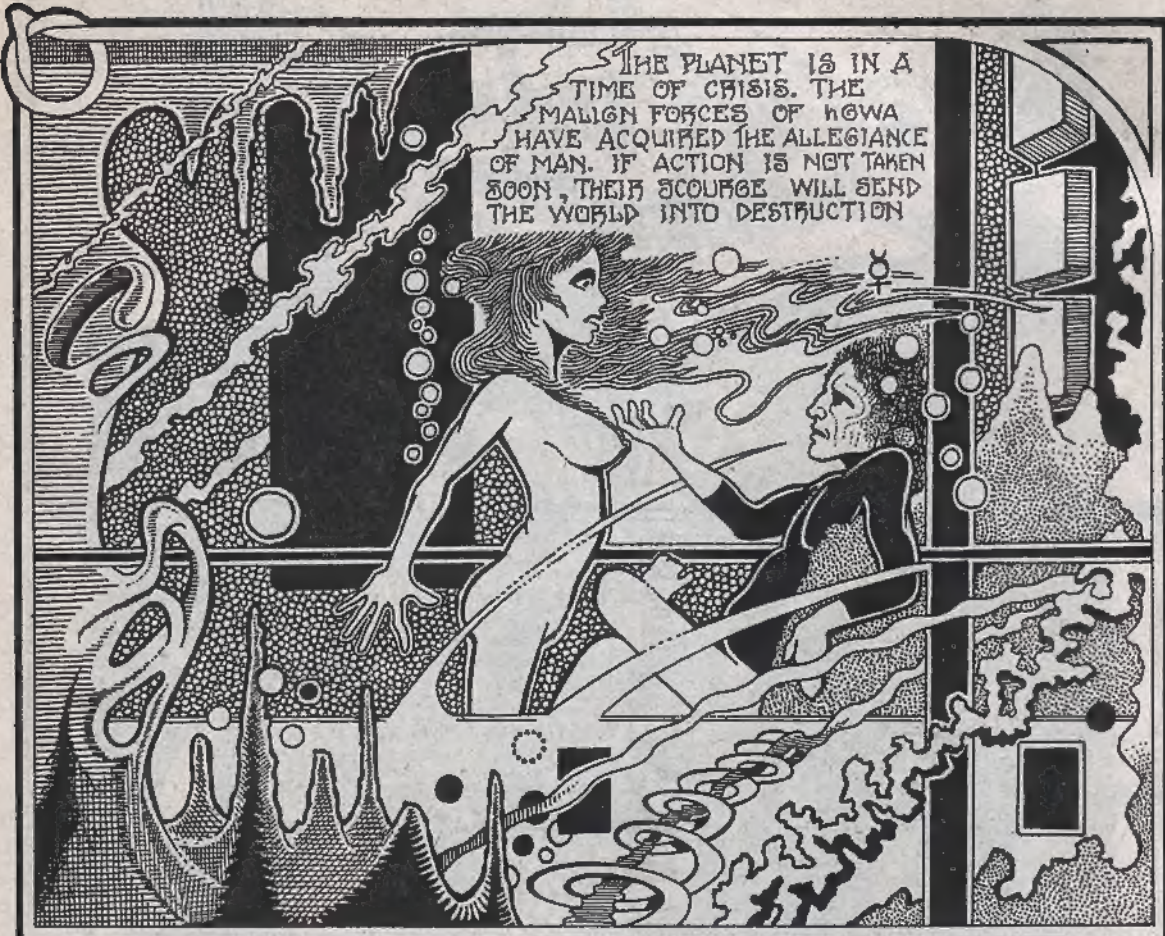




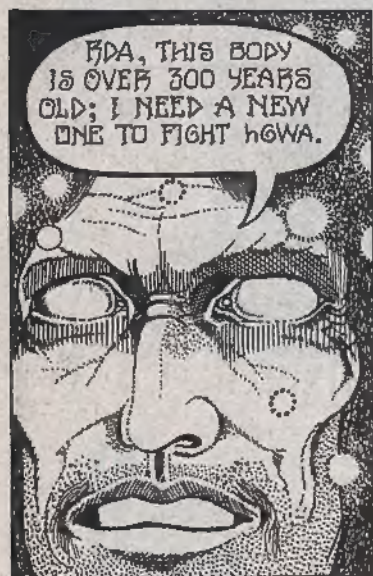
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Agents of DREAD





THE PLANET IS IN A
TIME OF CRISIS. THE
MALIGN FORCES OF HOWA
HAVE ACQUIRED THE ALLEGIANCE
OF MAN. IF ACTION IS NOT TAKEN
SOON, THEIR SCOURGE WILL SEND
THE WORLD INTO DESTRUCTION



HWA, THIS BODY
IS OVER 300 YEARS
OLD; I NEED A NEW
ONE TO FIGHT HOWA.



IT IS TIME
TO SHED THESE
LIMBS... TO DIE &
TO INCARNATE
ANew

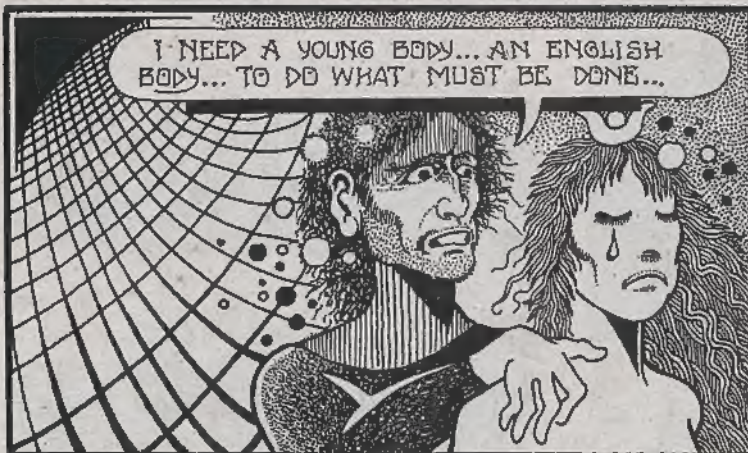
BUT
THOU, I WILL
MISS YOU SO.



ARE YOU SURE
THERE IS NO OTHER
METHOD?

I'M SURE

I NEED A YOUNG BODY... AN ENGLISH
BODY... TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE...

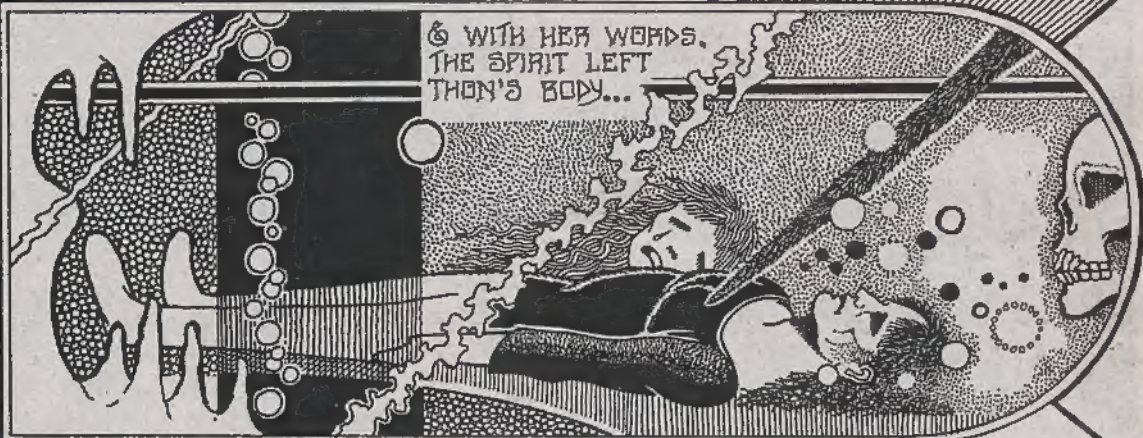


IN MY TIME, THEN, I SHALL
JOIN WITH YOU...

IN LONDON...



& WITH HER WORDS,
THE SPIRIT LEFT
THON'S BODY...

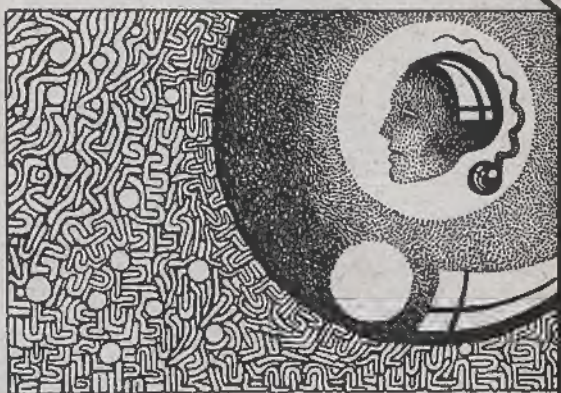


SOARING AWAY TO A DIMENSION
FAR FROM THIBET'S STYGIAN
SKIES; TO THE SPACES OF THE
BARDO, WHERE FOR 49 TIMELESS DAYS...



HIS SPIRIT WOULD DISSIPATE INTO
CLEAR LIGHT, THE ONENESS OF
ALL BEING.

AT THE END OF THE 49 DAYS, THON'S
SPIRIT REGATHERED & BEGAN ITS
TRANSMIGRATION TOWARDS LONDON.

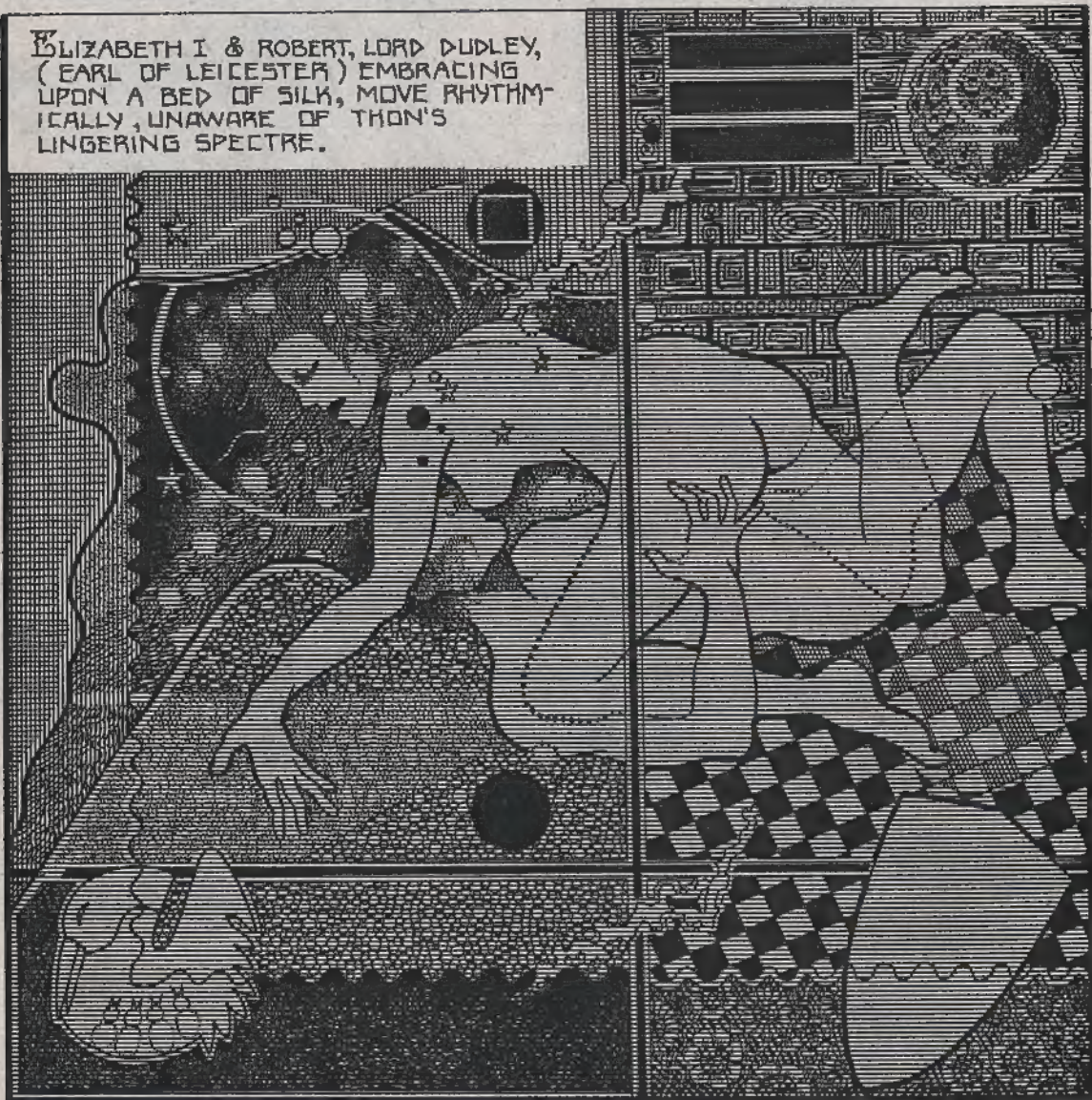


AS A STRANGE SPECTRE HOVERING

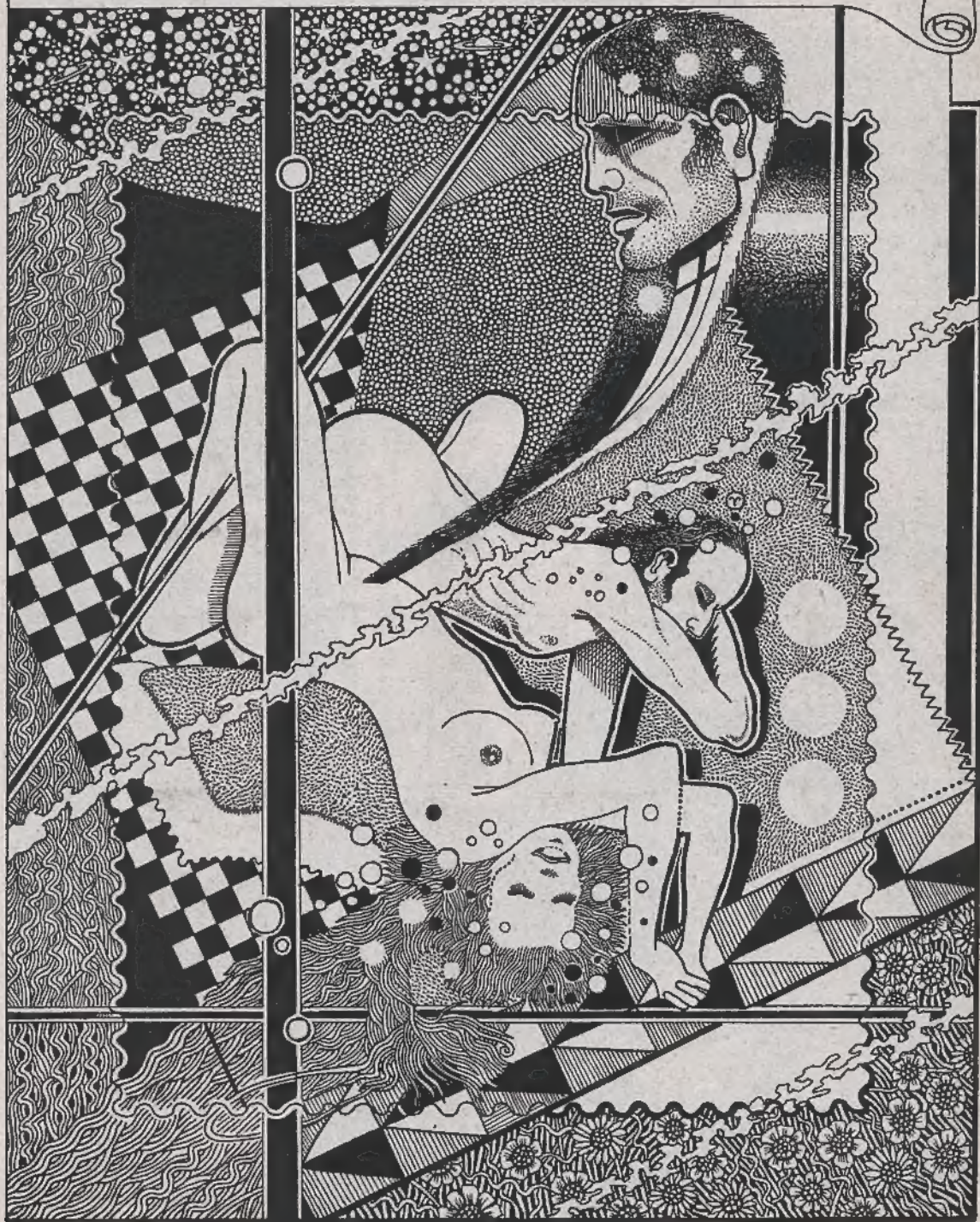


ABOVE AN ENGLISH PALACE (1560)

ELIZABETH I & ROBERT, LORD DUDLEY,
(EARL OF LEICESTER) EMBRACING
UPON A BED OF SILK, MOVE RHYTHM-
ICALLY, UNAWARE OF THON'S
LINGERING SPECTRE.



LINGERING SECRETLY UNTIL... AT THE MOMENT OF ORGASM,
THON'S SPECTRE LEAPS INTO AN AWAITING WOMB...



3 MONTHS LATER, A DESPERATE ELIZABETH DISCOVERS HERSELF PREGNANT:

SUMMON DR. DEE IMMEDIATELY!



YOU SENT FOR ME, MAJESTY?



EXPLAINING HER FLIGHT:

SO WHAT WILL I DO? I CAN'T MARRY DUDLEY!



AFTER A SOLEMN PAUSE

I ADVISE YOU TO FEIGN A NEAR-FATAL ILLNESS THESE NEXT FEW MONTHS...



UNTIL THE CHILD IS SECRETLY BORN...

BUT THEN WHAT?

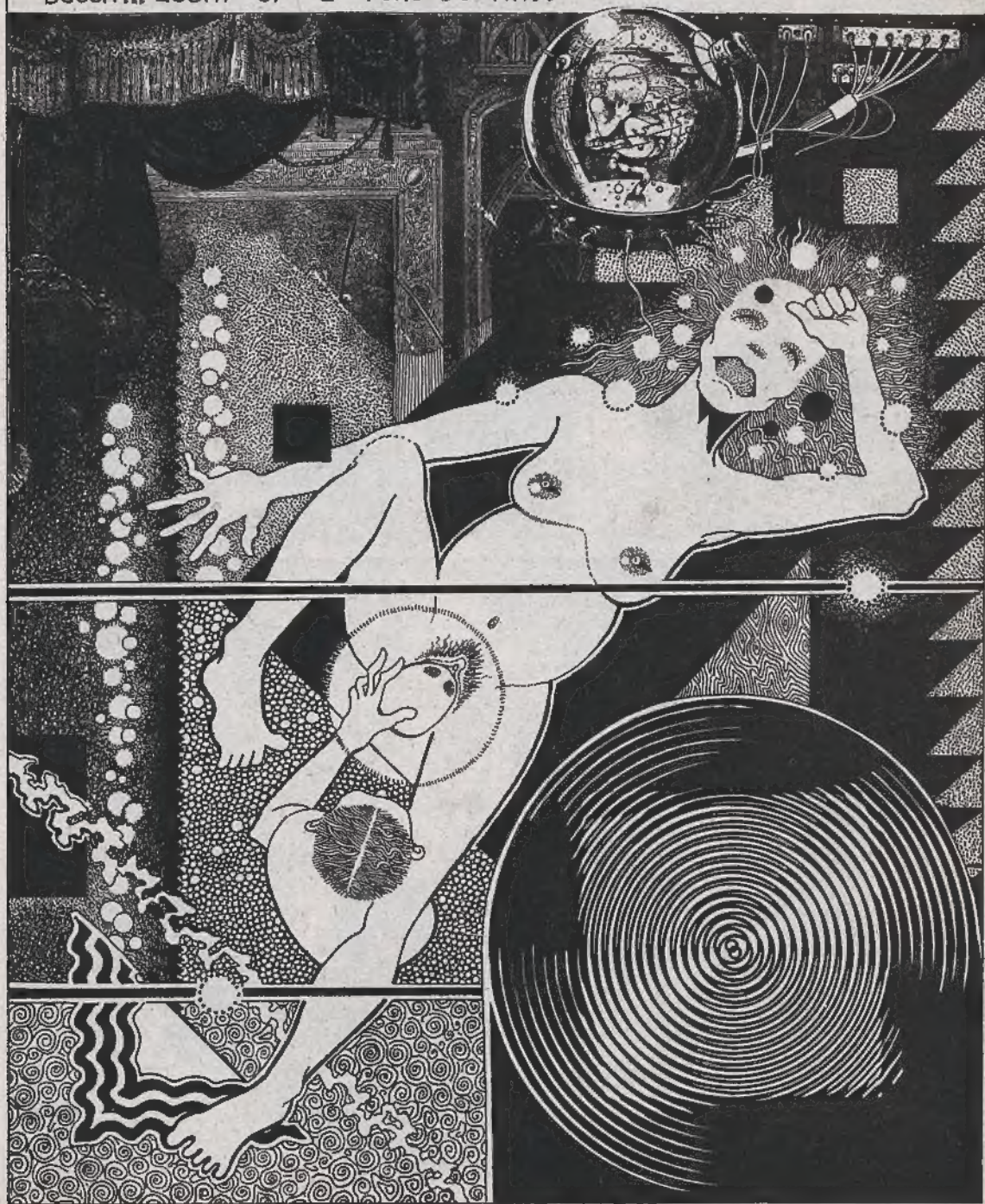


HAVE YOUR MOST TRUSTED OFFICER BRING UP THE CHILD AS HIS OWN.



LORD NICHOLAS BACON, LORD-KEEPER OF THE SEAL, AND HIS WIFE ANNE WERE INSTRUCTED TO CLAIM THE BABY AS THEIR OWN BLOOD. ANNE PRETENDED TO BE PREGNANT, WHILE ELIZABETH HID IN HER CHAMBER, FEIGNING AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

...UNTIL, ON JAN 22 1561, ELIZABETH GAVE BIRTH
TO A MYSTERIOUS SON WHOSE NAME "THON"
WOULD BE KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS "FRANCIS
BACON"... AGENT OF A PURE DESTINY.



THE INFANT
SLEPT IN A
KNOWING GLOW



THE MOTHER
WHISPERED &
MOANED



AS OUTSIDE
HER
CHAMBERS A
SPECIAL
SUNRISE



COLOURED
A BRITISH
DAWN

I MUST
HIDE MY
BABE IN
ORDER TO



KEEP MY
EMPIRE...

WE UNDER-
STAND... AND
KNOW...
THIS SECRET IS
SAFE WITH US



ELIZABETH
GIVES THE CHILD
TO SIR NICHOLAS
& LADY ANNE ...



MY WIFE
WILL TAKE
THE PILLOW
FROM UNDER
NIETH HER
DRESS AND
CLAIM THE
BOY AS HER
OWN



BUT ALL OF US
SHALL LIVE WITH
THIS TRUTH

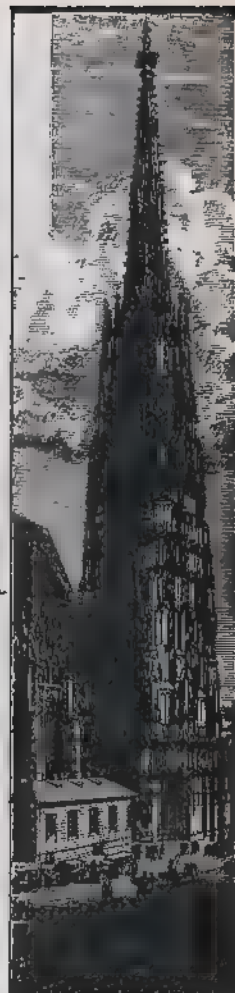
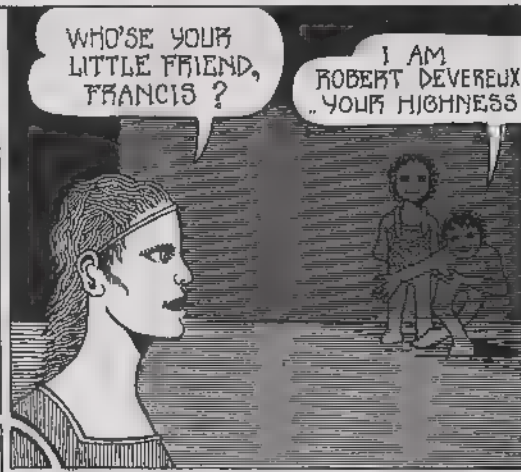
IN OUR HEARTS
... BUT NOT IN
OUR WORDS.



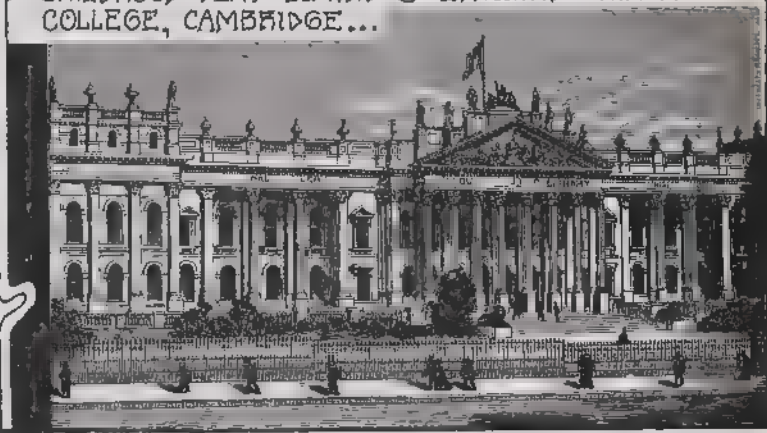
OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS,
YOUNG FRANCIS GREW UP CLOSE
TO THE COURT,



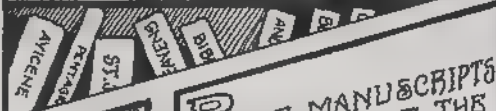
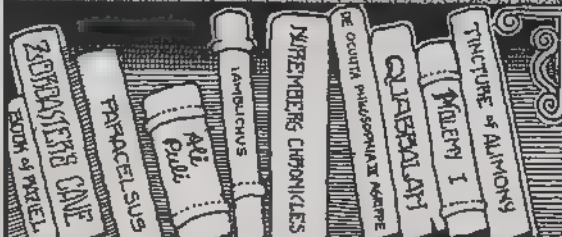
PLAYING WITH HIS YOUNGER
FRIEND ROBERT



TWO YEARS LATER, AT 12, FRANCIS LEFT HIS
CHILDHOOD PLAY BEHIND & ENTERED TRINITY
COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE...



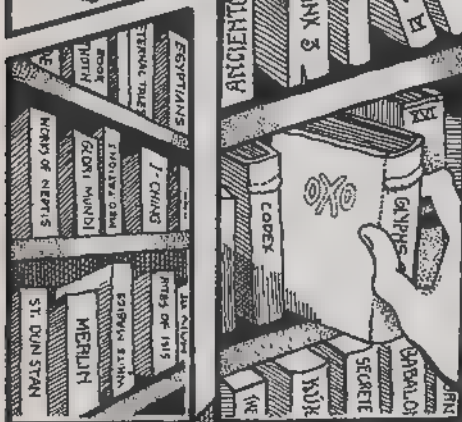
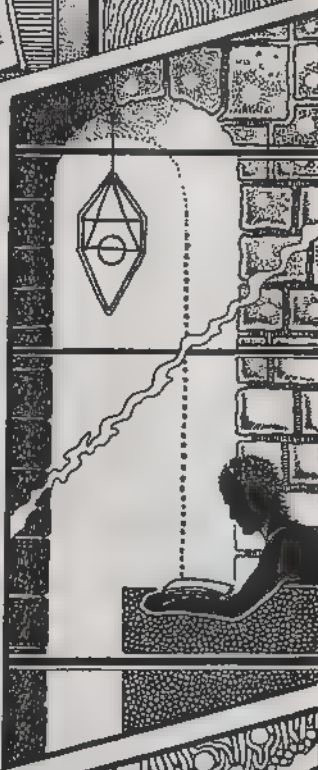
WHERE HE PONDERED LONG MONTHS
OVER ANCIENT VELLUM TEXTS,



RARE MANUSCRIPTS
ON THE OCCULT, THE
CONCEALED SCIENTIFIC
TEACHINGS OF ALL
AGES, THEATRE, ART,
AND PHILOSOPHY.

A YOUNG MIND,
A SPIRIT ROOTED IN
THE EAST, ABSORBING
THE TEACHINGS OF
THE WEST.

A YOUNG MIND
PREPARING ITSELF
FOR A MYSTERIOUS
BATTLE AGAINST
DARK FORCES.

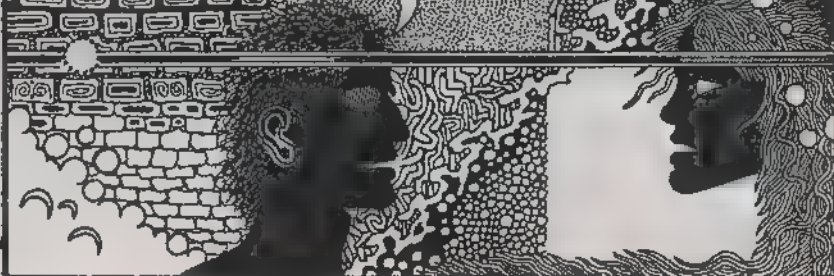


BUT A STRONG
MIND IS NOT JUST
A THING OF INTEL-
LECT... IT IS A
CREATURE OF
VIVID EMOTIONS
& FEELINGS...

A MIND THAT
SILENTLY YEARNs
TO BE REJOINED
WITH ITS LOVE:
THE THIBETAN
PRIESTESS ADA...

BUT KNOWING THAT THERE IS
MUCH TO PREPARE FOR:

YOUR LADYSHIP, I MUST REQUEST
THAT YOU SEND ME TO THE COURT
OF FRANCE... FOR THERE ARE
THINGS I CAN LEARN ONLY THERE.



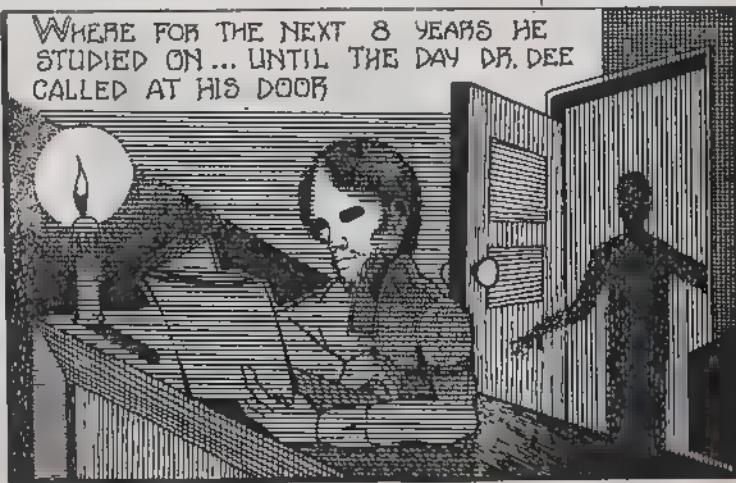
IN PARIS YOUNG FRANCIS
STUDIED THE FRENCH COURT,
ITS KING A PUPPET OF
THE FORCES OF hGWA



MANUFACTURING RUMORS
THAT FRANCIS WAS HAVING
AN AFFAIR WITH THE PROM-
ISCUOUS FRENCH QUEEN,
WHEN ELIZABETH LEARNED
OF THIS, SHE DEMANDED
HIS SUMMONS BACK TO
ENGLAND...

IN HIS CRYPTIC JOURNALS
HE RECORDED THE WAYS
OF hGWA, THE DEVIOUS
HANDIWORK OF DARK
FORCES. THE FRENCH
REGENTS ACTED UNWITTINGLY
AS SELFISH VASSALS OF
INJUSTICE & CORRUPTION...

WHERE FOR THE NEXT 8 YEARS HE
STUDIED ON... UNTIL THE DAY DR. DEE
CALLED AT HIS DOOR



DRESSED IN DARK SATIN VESTMENTS

I COME TO BRING YOU A DOWNCAST WARNING

WHAT NEWS & WHY TO ME?

I KNOW WELL WHO YOU ARE & WHY YOU WERE BORN TO HELP US

"THE FORCES OF HGWAVE HAVE GAINED CONTROL OF SPAIN. HER ARMADA, AT THIS VERY MOMENT READIES ITSELF TO STRIKE AT BRITISH SOIL. THIS CURSE COULD WELL CONTROL ALL OUR KINGDOM, ALL OUR WORLD, UNLESS YOUR MAGIC CAN REDEEM OUR FATE.

YOUR MOTHER & ALL THIS REALM IS IN PERIL...

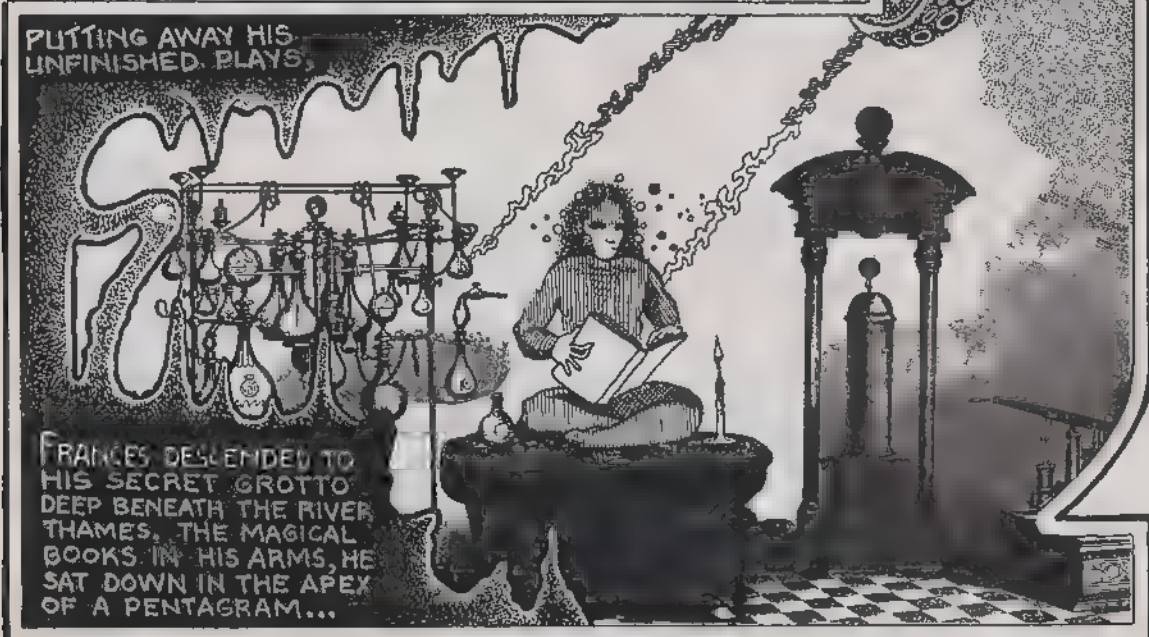
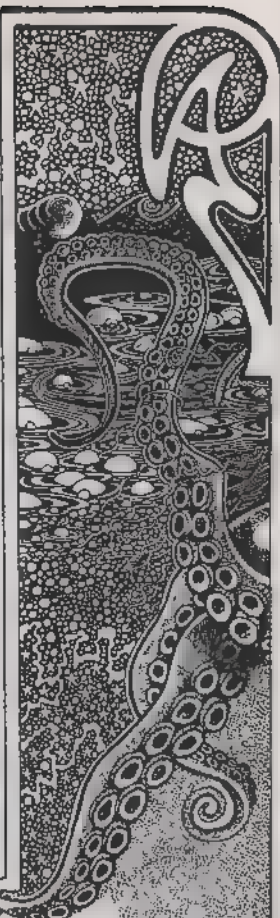
& YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DESTINED TO DO.

I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH THESE WORDS

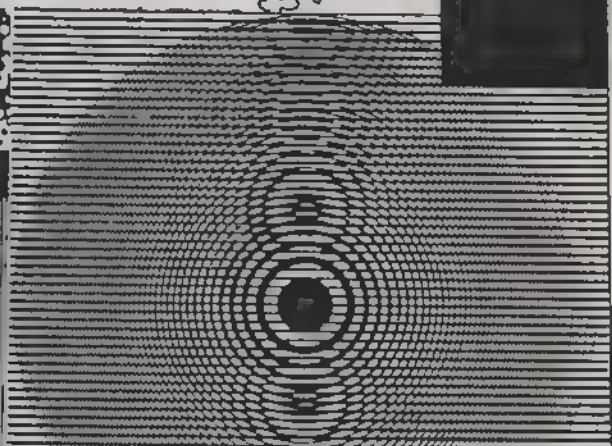
...AND WITH THIS BOOK!

PUTTING AWAY HIS UNFINISHED PLAYS,

FRANCES DESCENDED TO HIS SECRET GROTTO DEEP BENEATH THE RIVER THAMES. THE MAGICAL BOOKS IN HIS ARMS, HE SAT DOWN IN THE APEX OF A PENTAGRAM...



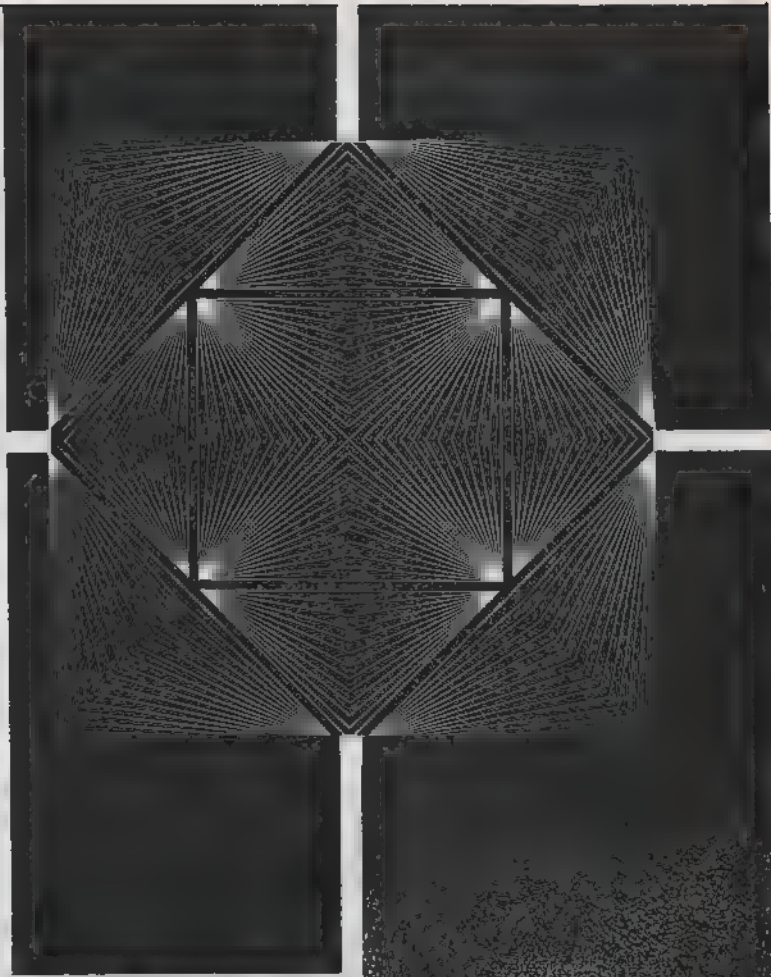
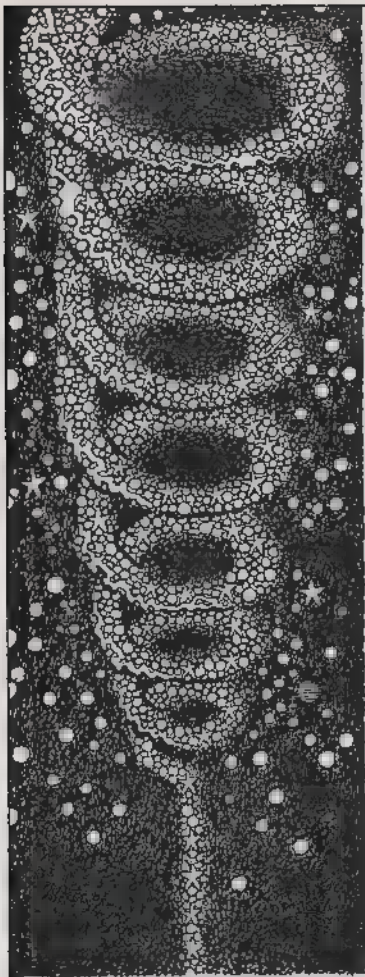
FOR NEARLY TWO DAYS,
READING PASSAGES FROM
THE GOLDEN FOLIO, AND
MEDITATING.
AS THE SPANISH
FLEET SAILED NEARER
TO THE ENGLISH
COAST...



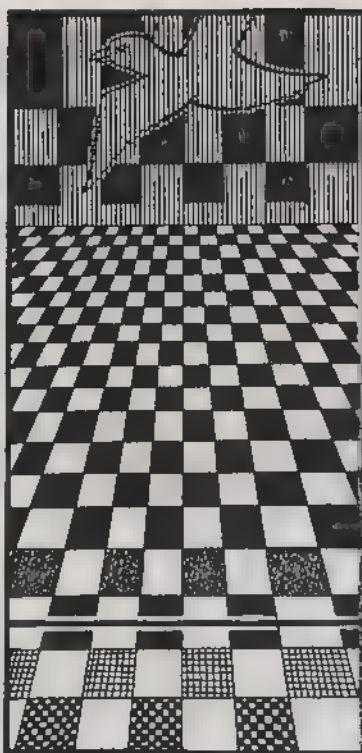
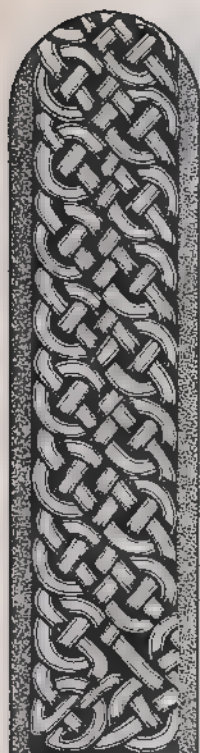
BACON AMASSED
HIS MYSTICAL POWERS
INTO A SINGLENESSE OF
PURPOSE... HIS ASTRAL
FORM RISING FROM
THE MATERIAL,
SEPARATING

UNTIL HIS LIBERATED SPECTRE AVIATES CONDOR-
LIKE ABOVE LONDON SKIES. FLYING TOWARDS
THE CHANNEL, HE DETECTS THE SPANISH ARMADA,
LED BY IBERIAN ADMIRALS, PUPPETS OF HOWA
WHOSE GREED BRINGS MANKIND CLOSER TO CATASTROPHY.





THE VICIOUS AURA OF THEIR SHIELD REPULSES BACON FROM FLYING NEARER. DARTING MILES EASTWARD HE SPIES THE ENGLISH FLEET... ON-BOARD THE SHIP H.M.S. "REVENGE" SIR WALTER RALEIGH & ROBERT DEVEREUX REVIEW THE BATTLE-PLAN.

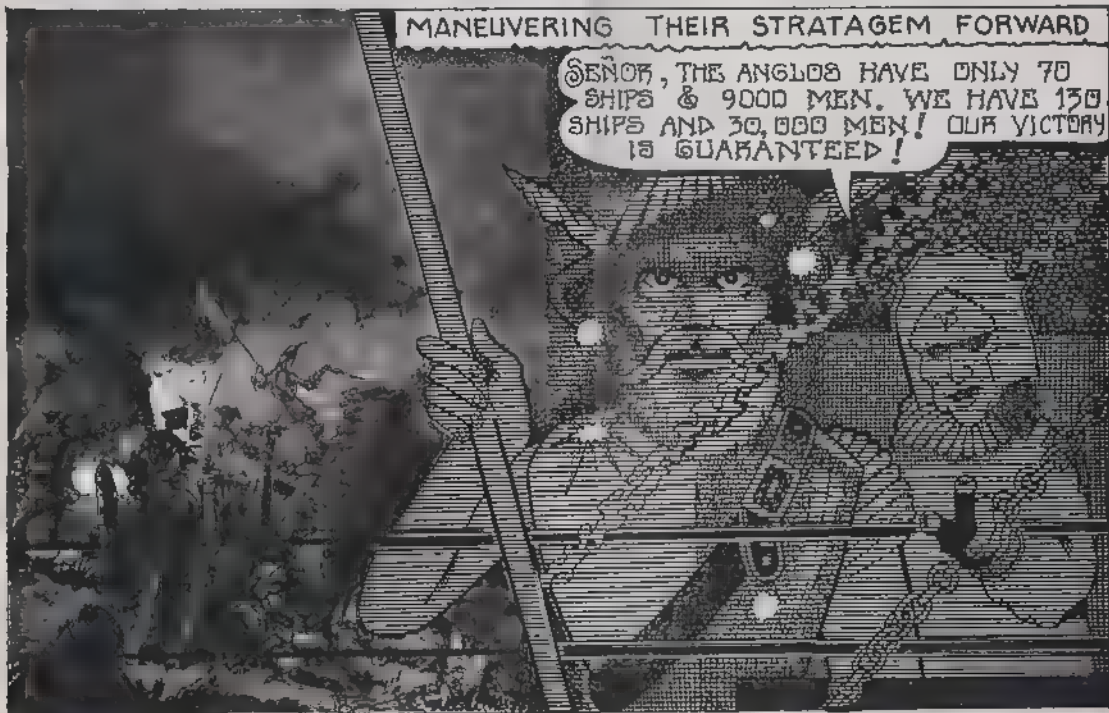


THE SPANISH SHIPS MOVED IN TO
OPPOSE BRITISH GALLEONS,



MANEUVERING THEIR STRATAGEM FORWARD

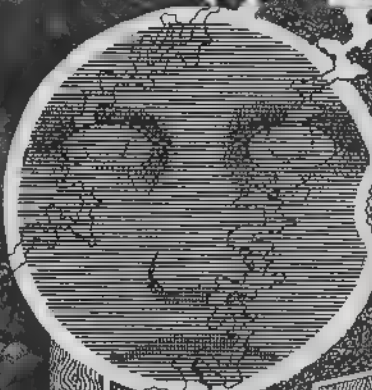
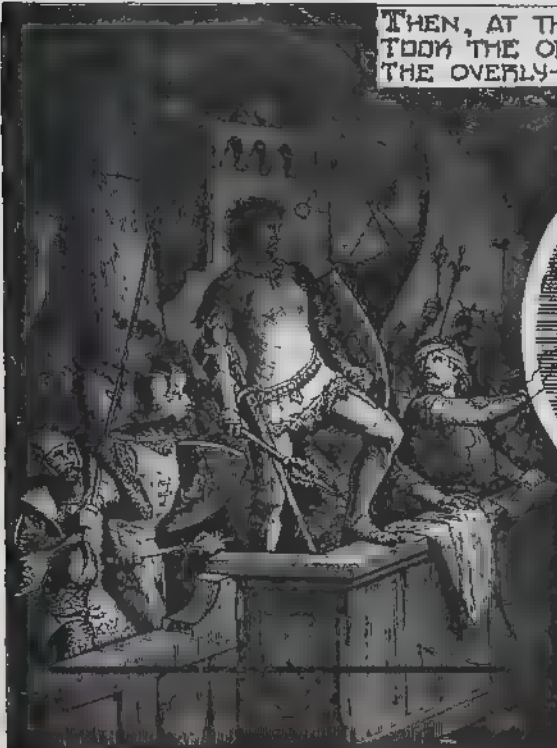
SEÑOR, THE ANGLOS HAVE ONLY 70
SHIPS & 9000 MEN. WE HAVE 130
SHIPS AND 30,000 MEN! OUR VICTORY
IS GUARANTEED!



FOR DAYS, BACON'S SPECTRE LABOURED-ON
COMMUNICATING NAVAL TACTICS TELEPATHICALLY
INTO DRAKE'S SUBCONSCIOUSNESS



THEN, AT THE END OF JULY, DRAKE *
TOOK THE OFFENSIVE, CONFUSING
THE OVERLY-OPTIMISTIC SPANYARDS.



BACON,
IN A PEAK
OF MYSTICAL
FEVER,
CONJURED
A FIERCE
SEA-STORM
THAT
SCATTERED
THE SPANISH
FLOTILLA,
SMASHING
DOZENS
OF THEIR
GALLEONS
AGAINST
THE PERILOUS
COAST.

ALL IN ALL
63 SPANISH
SHIPS
WERE LOST,
BREAKING
THE BACK
OF THE
SPANISH
ARMADA.

THIS VICTORY HAD TURNED THE COURSE
OF HUMAN HISTORY... AND ALL THOSE ON
BOARD KNEW IT ALL TOO WELL...



AS THEY CHEERED IN CELE-
BRATION, BACON'S SPIRIT
RETURNED TO LONDON:

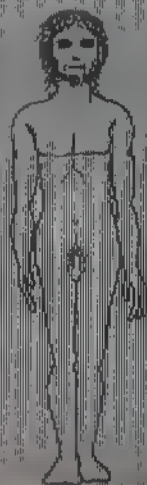


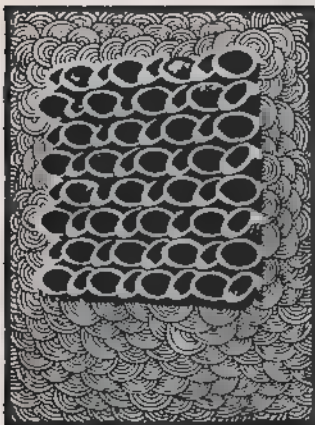
FOR THERE IS
YET MUCH
TO DO



IN LONDON AND IN
THE BODY OF BACON,
I CAN CONTINUE

MY PLAYWRITING,
MY STUDIES, AND
THIS BATTLE
AGAINST HGWA





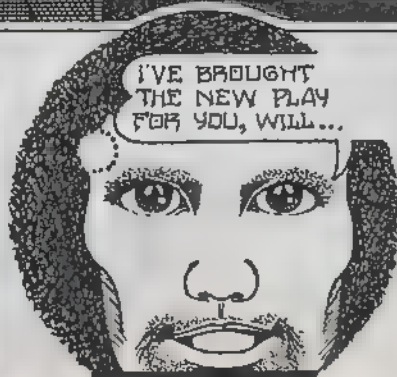
AT NIGHT FRANCIS LEFT
HIS HOME ON "THE STRAND"
FOR A RENDEZVOUS WITH
AN OBSCURE YOUNG ACTOR



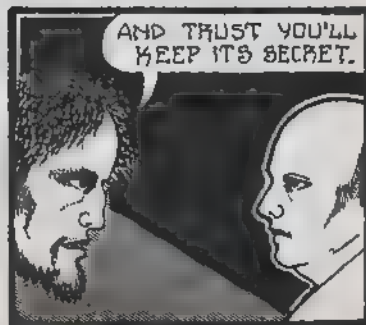
IT'S SAFE TO
TALK HERE, SIR,
... I ASSURE YOU.



I'VE BROUGHT
THE NEW PLAY
FOR YOU, WILL...

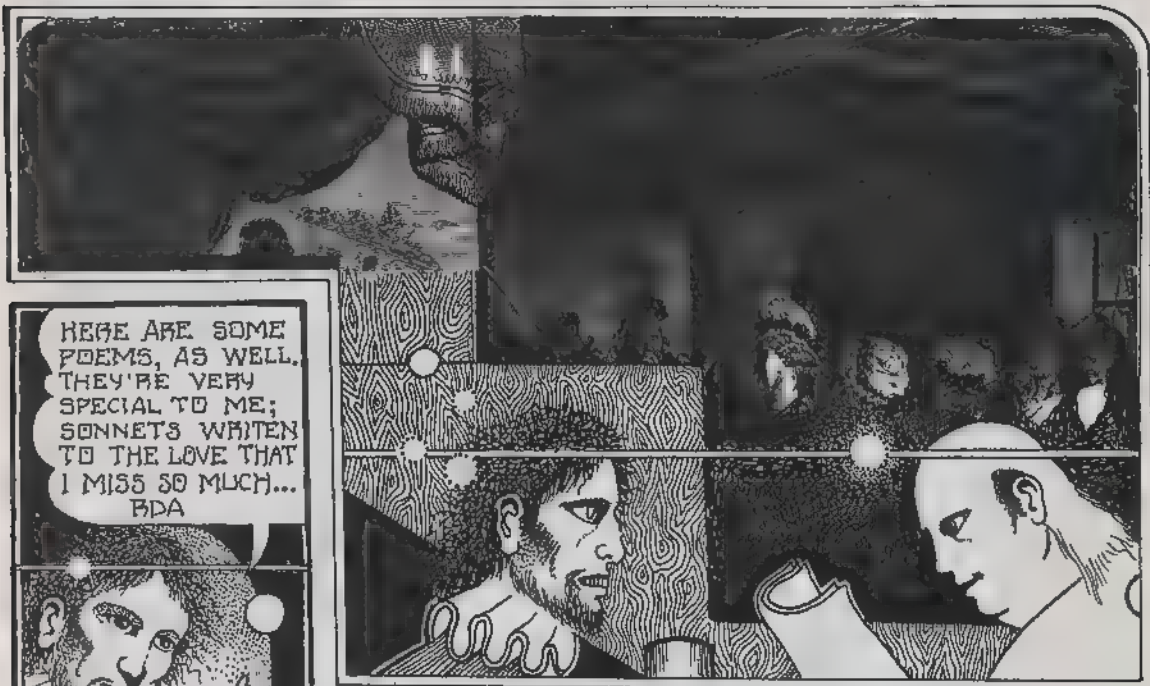


AND TRUST YOU'LL
KEEP IT'S SECRET.



THE YOUNG ACTOR IS WILLIAM SHAKESPAR, AN ASPIRING PLAYWRIGHT HIMSELF AND FRIEND OF BACON'S. AN UNHAPPY MARRIAGE FORCED HIM TO LEAVE HIS HOME OF STRATFORD-ON-AVON FOR LONDON. HUNGRY AND PENNILESS, HE MET BACON OUTSIDE A THEATRE AND APPEALED TO HIM FOR HELP. FRANCIS RESPONDED BY BECOMING HIS BENEFACTOR & PATRON, FINDING WILLIAM WORK IN A TROUPE HIS FATHER SUPPORTED.

SOON SHAKESPAR AND FRANCIS WERE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER. BACON USED WILLIAM'S NAME AS A NOM-DE-PLUME TO PRESENT HIS PLAYS TO UNSUSPECTING LONDON AUDIENCES; THUS THIS NOCTURNAL MEETING:



BACON SLOWLY RETURNS HOME



TO BEGIN WORK ON A NEW PLAY...





QUIETLY THE DOOR
OPENS BEHIND HIM AS
A FIGURE ENTERS



ON A SECRET SOJOURN
FROM THE CONTINENT

DOCTOR DEE

!

I'VE COME TO
BRING YOU
NEWS AGAIN:
FIRST THE BAD
THEN THE GOOD



The battle with the
Spaniards was only the
beginning of your
struggle. Their defeat
was merely a delay
in their plans for
conquest.



At this moment, they are at work
on a new strategy: silently killing
loyal Englishmen, then inhaling
their bodies with evil souls...

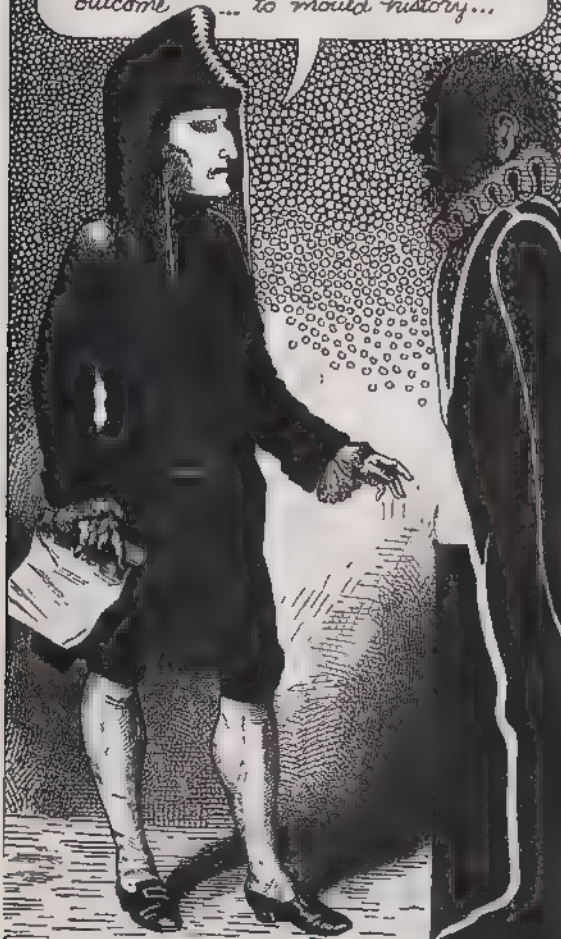


...Your friend Robert Devereux is
among their first victims. These
agents of Dread have murdered him
and now use his body to serve H&W!





*London itself has become a battlefield
between the forces of Light and Dark-
ness. It is your fate to decide its
outcome... to mould history...*



BUT WHY ROBERT DEV...

*... you will know soon enough
... only you.
and as for the "good news":
you are to have help in
this struggle: Rds was re-born
here in London eighteen years
ago...
she awaits you outside the
Tower at dawn...*



**TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
NEXT ISSUE: PART II !**

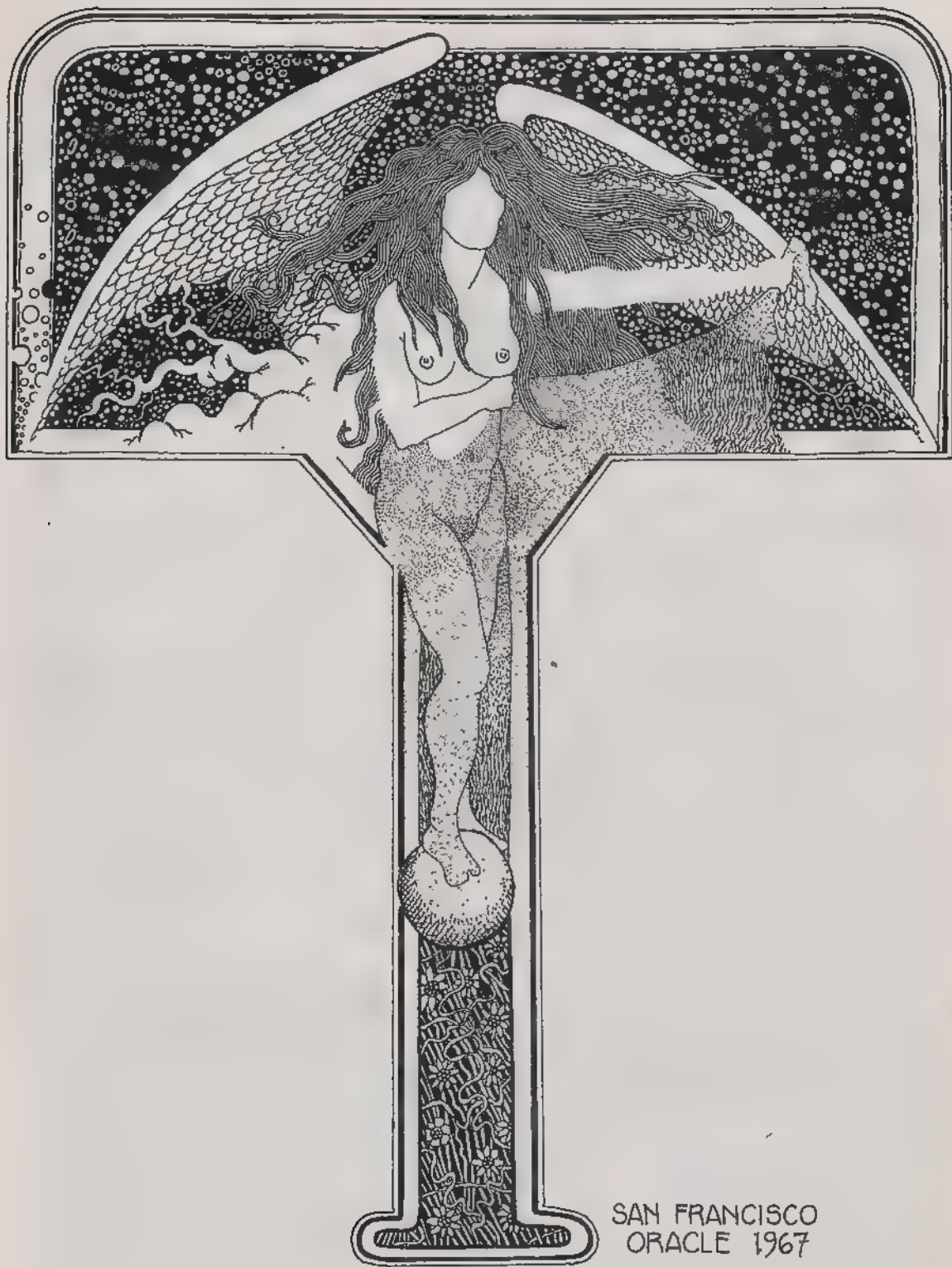
Tom DRAWINGS





DEPARTMENT OF MESOPOTAMIAN ART, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

DRAWING & POSTER 1965



SAN FRANCISCO
ORACLE 1967



AVALON POSTER S.F. 1968

revised

